

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET

COUNTRY	East Germany/West Germany	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1A
SUBJECT	East German Production and Procurement of Television Tubes	DATE DISTR.	17 May 1954	
		NO. OF PAGES	2	
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1A
25X1C PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REFERENCES		

633135

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1X

1. In April 1953, RFT Funkwerk Erfurt started to develop a certain type of tube called SRL-402, to be used in television transmitters. This development was initiated in order to replace the RS-782 tube, which is not available in East Germany and which, on a few instances, has been procured illegally from the West. Early in 1953, the Main Administration for Radio and Telecommunications (HV RFT) commissioned RFT Funkwerk Erfurt not only to develop the SRL-402 type, but also to deliver 17 units urgently needed in 1953. It was pointed out then that the television transmitters in Berlin and Leipzig urgently needed one RS-782 or SRL-402 each and that more tubes of these types were needed as replacements and for other television transmitters.
2. RFT Funkwerk Erfurt was not able to deliver any useable SRL-402 tubes during 1953. The few models developed until late March 1954 function only for a maximum of seven hours and then go out of operation. So far, at least 90 percent of the SRL-402 tubes produced by RFT Erfurt have been rejected as unusable.
3. The Main Administration for Radio and Telecommunications advised RFT Funkwerk Erfurt in late March 1954 that the minimum 1954 requirements of the SRL-402 tube would be 50 units and urgently requested the enterprise to speed up and improve production. The management of the plant notified the Main Administration that the earliest date at which useable models of the required tubes may be delivered is late summer 1954.

25X6

25X6

4. In the meantime, the Main Administration for Wireless Communications (HV Funkwesen) procured four RS-782 tubes from the Telefunken firm in Ulm through Dover firms.

25X1A

SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1A

The four tubes were received on 25 March 1954 by Gerhard Gradecki, an official of HV Funkwesen. Gradecki paid 2,400 DMW each, plus a surcharge for illegal procurement of 480 DMW per unit.¹

1. ☐ Comment: The regular price of a RS-782 tube is 1,200 DMW.

SECRET